

Cal/EPA's application of the above-proposed definition would allow objective, as opposed to subjective, evaluation of the cumulative impacts in a given community. This is critical to the development of fair and equitable programs to address cumulative impacts. This definition is also consistent with Cal/EPA's commitment to develop cumulative impacts policy with a "strong scientific foundation" and will allow Cal/EPA and its BDOs to prioritize their work and focus on the health risks that pose the greatest potential harm.

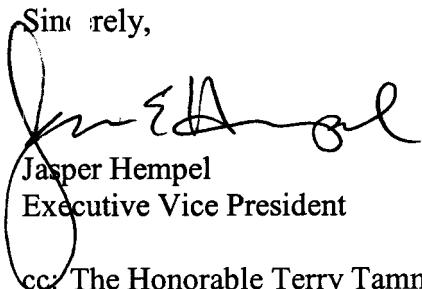
It is important to note that the proposed definition of "multi-media cumulative impacts" would only cover the *scope* of multi-media cumulative impacts. It would not, for example, address the issue of how the agencies would determine if a cumulative impact problem exists.

We strongly urge you to adopt the proposed definition in lieu of the default definition suggested by members of Cal-EPA's Advisory Committee on Environmental Justice in September of 2003. The latter definition lacks any consideration of health risk and therefore will not inform rational decisions regarding 1) what constitutes a cumulative impact, 2) whether the magnitude of the impact necessitates further regulation beyond existing program requirements and 3) what measures may be necessary to mitigate the impact.

We recognize the many challenges facing Cal-EPA as it attempts to forge new Environmental Justice policy and we appreciate your consideration of these comments. We look forward to continued discussions with you and other EJ stakeholders.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (949) 863-1000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jasper Hempel", is written over a circular stamp or seal.

Jasper Hempel
Executive Vice President

cc: The Honorable Terry Tamminen
The Honorable James Branham
The Honorable Joan Denton
Ms. Tam Doduc
Mr. Val Siebal